

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Please note that a supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) has been filed concurrently with the present response. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and initial the cited references.

Formal drawings were filed in the previous response on December 19, 2003. A courtesy copy of those formal drawings were submitted with the previously filed response and are again submitted herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the drawings as formal as previously filed.

Claims 11-15, 18-21, 25-27, 30 and 32-63 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 11, 18, 32, 34, 36, 40, 43, 45, 49, and 51 are amended. Claims 41, 47 and 53 have been cancelled. Claims 54-63 have been added. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully submits that, upon entry of the subject amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicant, thus, respectfully requests consideration of the above amendment and following remarks.

In the pending office action claims 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,599,598 to Komoda *et al.* ("Komoda"); and claims 11-15, 18-21, 25-27, 30 and 37-53 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration and allowance of claims 11-16, 18-21, 25-27, 30 and 37-53. While claims 41-53 were allowed, each depends from one of

rejected claims 32-36, directly or indirectly. After speaking with Examiner Nguyen via telephone, Examiner Nguyen informed Applicant that dependent claims 41-53 should be considered objected to and would be allowable if written in independent form.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowance, claim 32 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 41, which is cancelled by this amendment. Claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 47 and claim 36 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 53. Dependent claims 47 and 53 also have been cancelled. Therefore, by these amendments claims 41, 47, and 53 have been rewritten in independent form and Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner.

Dependent claims 44 and 50 also were deemed allowable if written in independent form. Newly added independent claim 54 includes the limitations of dependent claim 44. Similarly, new independent claim 59 includes the limitations of dependent claim 50. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 54 and 59 are in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner.

In addition, because claims 54 and 59 have been deemed to be allowable by the Examiner, Applicant submits that new claims 55-58, which depend from claim 54, and new claims 60-63, which depend from claim 59, are also in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims do not require additional searching.

Dependent claims 11, 18, 40, 45, and 51 have amended to correct typographical errors and/or to more accurately refer to previously recited claim

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elements. Dependent claims 43 and 49 have been amended to more clearly indicate that coupling of the filter may be accomplished via disconnection of the branch line as opposed to coupling only via cutting the branch line as previously claimed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art references and that the application stands in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that all pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

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CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Vincent J. Roccia, at (215) 564-8946, to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic interview.

If an additional extension is necessary for this amendment to be considered timely filed, a written conditional petition therefore is hereby made. Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiencies in fees, including any fees for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to Deposit Account 23-3050. Please credit any overpayment in fees to the same deposit account.

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Vincent J. Roccia
Registration No. 43,887

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439